

DESCRIPTION AMENDMENTS

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 9, to read as follows:

An apparatus and a method ~~according to the preamble of claim 1 and of claim 8 for the anaerobic fermentation of materials~~ is known from the DE 198 04 007. This document relates to the treatment of an organically burdened fluid whereat the gas is generated in the fermentation stage. In practice it has turned out that the average duration of stay of the burdened fluids in the pre-acidification stage is approximately 15 hours and a total process approximately 30 hours. In this time the process water is sufficiently pre-acidified so that it can be transported into the fermenter without involving the risk that there would occur yet another acidification in the fermenter which would be very disadvantageous for the fermentation process particularly by damaging the methane producing bacteria due to low pH-values. Usually in the pre-acidification a pH-value of 6.0 or below must be reached. The pre-acidification serves to solubilize complex carbon compounds since the fermentation bacteria can utilize simple carbon compounds only.

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 26, to read as follows:

~~This objective is achieved by an apparatus with the characteristics of claim 1 and a method with the characteristics of claim 8.~~

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 29, to read as follows:

~~Preferred embodiments are disclosed in the respective sub claims.~~